Export of Spices

282. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a drastic fall both in terms of quantity and value in export of spice mainly that of pepper;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the countries that are importing less quantity of spices from India; and

(d) the steps government propose to take to check the fall in export of spices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Details of exports of spices all taken together and pepper separately during the last 3 years are given below:-

Year	*Spices*		*Pepper*	
	Qty. (MT)	*Value (Rs. Crores)*	*Qty. (MT)*	*Value (Rs.Crores)*
1988-89	99948	274.80	36981	164.63
1989-90	102170	275.76	34482	152.96
1990-91	97291	238.66	31871	111.06

As the figures show the exports of spices have declined.

(b) The decline in the export of spices is due to the following main reasons:-

(i) increase in the domestic consumption,

(ii) high prices in the domestic market,

(iii) lower exports to Gulf markets due to Gulf War,

(iv) fall in international prices of major spices; and

(v) low productivity, leading to Indian spices being non-competitive in the International market.

(c) During 1990-91, WANA (West Asia & North Africa) countries purchased lower quantities of spices due to war situation. The other countries have by and large maintained their import of spices from India at their normal levels.

(d) The Spices Board has taken the following measures to promote exports of spices from India:

1. Encouraging export of value added items like spice oils and oleoresins, spice blends and mixes and also export in branded consumer packs.

2. Sending delegations/study teams to selected markets for market promotion.

3. Arranging buyer-seller meets in India for business development.

4. Participating in selected international fairs and exhibitions.

5. To popularise various brands of Indian spices and to develop

loyalty to Indian Brands, the Spices Board have introduced a Brand Promotion Scheme.

6. Taking up development and research programme for increasing productivity and production of spices.

7. Undertaking various steps such as grower education and establishment of quality upgradation laboratory for Improving cleanliness of Indian spices to meet importers requirements.

Expenditure on Government Cars

283. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the expenditure on Government cars during the years 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 so far, Ministry-wise;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to reduce the expenditure on cars;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the impact is has made on this expenditure Ministry-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) The expenditure being incurred on Government vehicles/Staff Cars by Ministries/Departments of the Government of India is not centrally maintained. Collecting such information from various Ministries/Department and organisation of the Central Government is likely to involve much time and labour which may not be commensurate with the results to be achieved.

(b) to (d). A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT

The following steps have been taken to reduce consumption and saving of petrol/diesel in Government vehicles:

(i) Instructions were issued to all Ministries/Departments in June, 1990 that from 1990-91 onwards, consumption of petrol and diesel in Government vehicles, including Staff Cars, should be reduced by 20% over the consumption of petrol and diesel during 1989-90. These instructions were reiterated in April, 1991. After the recent price hike on petrol, further instructions were issued on 1.8.1991. to all Ministries/Departments that total expenditure on petrol/diesel to be incurred during 1991-92 shall be restricted to the expenditure incurred during 1990-91 on the quantity of petrol/diesel fixed by applying a 20% cut on the consumption of petrol/diesel during 1989-90.

(ii) Instructions were issued on 22nd August, 1990 that Government vehicles, except when on deployment for emergency and other unavoidable operational duties, and staff cars shall not be used on Sundays.

(iii) Instructions were issued in January, 1991 to all Ministries/Departments, reiterating the pooling arrangements that officers should travel in the same car, to the extent possible, instead of travelling separately both in respect of journeys between office and residence and for attending meetings.